



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET. ROOM 372**

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

10:00 AM

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairperson Montaña, Vice Chairperson Bacio, Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Moore

Excused: Commissioner Bigby and Commissioner Hill

The Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence will be led by Chairperson Montaña.

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence followed with self introductions.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Meeting to be called to order by Chairperson Montaña. (11-3349)

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Approval of the July 13, 2011 Minutes. (11-3350)

On motion of Vice-Chairperson Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Moore, unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of July 13, 2011 were approved with edits.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. **Roundtable Discussion**
Department of Auditor Controller
Department of Children and Family Services
Update on the 911 Emergency Calls
Department of Mental Health
Probation Department
Sheriff's Department
Internal Services Department (11-3351)

Internal Services Department (11-3351)

Department of Auditor-Controller's Office

Ms. Cassandra Youngblood, Acting Group Home Ombudsman of the Auditor-Controller, addressed her concerns about complaints from a group home population of gays, lesbians and transgender youth. Ms. Youngblood highlighted one caller in particular; a transgender youth who was not allowed to dress in clothing that best identifies himself/herself.

Elizabeth Howard, CSA III of Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), responded that GLASS Group Home who cared for most of the gay, lesbian and transgender foster population is closed, and it is required that all of the Group Homes are to accept transgender, gay and lesbian youth as stated in Assembly Bill 458 that ensures the treatment and acceptance of these individuals are no different than the general population. The County is not considering selecting a primary facility to house them. Dorothy Channel, CSA II of DCFS, stated the Gay and Lesbian Center offers supportive services to the youth. Ms. Youngblood suggests that Hathaway-Sycamore Children and Family Services Group Home reserve at least six beds for them.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Ms. Howard, reported that during the period of June 15th through July 19, 2011 the Out-of-Home Care Management Division received 20 Group Home referrals in the following category; General Neglect there were 10, four were evaluated out, one was unfounded and five are still pending; Physical Abuse there were eight with all eight still pending; and Sexual Abuse there were two, with one pending and one evaluated out. During the same time frame there were a total of 458 runaways.

Ms. Howard addressed the Commission's concerns with Mozell Pennington and Pennacle Group Homes. Ms. Howard reported that the issue of Ms. Gibson, Director, Mozell Pennington Group Home, threatening staff and clients with seven day notices of dismissal/removal; a Group Home monitor addressed the issue with the Group Home owner, who then addressed the issue and took corrective action which resolved the concern; and regarding the physical condition of the Group Home, the old carpet and blinds were removed, and the rooms were painted. At Pennacle Group Home, the report of physical abuse was investigated and determined to be unfounded, and the report of general neglect was

inconclusive. Ms. Howard will report and apprise the Commission on the issue of clients at Pennacle Group Home not having a variety of foods to choose from and provide an update on the installation of computers at the Group Homes at the next Business Meeting.

Following discussion, Commissioner Moore's informed DCFS and the Probation Department that the Commission is reviewing the audited reports and visiting the facilities to ensure they are in compliance. Staff was instructed to provide a list noting the Commissioner's visits and comments on the Group Home monitoring follow-up inspections for the next Business meeting.

In response to Commissioner Bacio's concerns, Ms. Channel stated that most physicians do not accept Medi-Cal which limits the number of doctors available to care for the foster youth.

Mental Health

There was no one present to speak before the Commission.

Probation Department

Ms. Pamela Pease, Acting Supervising Deputy Probation Officer of the Probation Department (PD), reported for the month of June 2011, there were a total of 106 Absent Without Leave (AWOL); 61 remain AWOL; 20 returned to Group Homes; 19 were placed in juvenile hall; one was hospitalized; one is deceased and one is in Los Angeles County Jail (the five unaccounted were repeat AWOLS). There were two reports of child abuse at the Children Youth Sports Foundation, both allegations were unfounded, however, the staff member involved was terminated, as it was determined there was inappropriate restraint used. There are seven contract compliance monitoring review reports are on the Department's website and she anticipate that eight more reports will be added soon. Three reports are outstanding.

Scott Sanders, Director Transportation Services, Probation Department reported that within the past three years only one child abuse lawsuit was awarded against the Department resulting in paying \$35,000 in damages, and assaults on staff are on a downward decline trend. Also, the Probation Department is considering utilizing video cameras to document use force.

Sheriff's Department

Commander Cooper, Sheriff's Department, reported there was no current update on lock-ups or the installation of reflective tape. He also provided the Commission with the assault on staff report, and agreed to include an inmate assaults on inmates report for future Business meetings. Commander Asmus send his apology for missing today's meeting.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

Mr. William Kiriama, Internal Service Department (ISD), reported that ISD repairs on the water tank is complete and the sewer lines are being replaced at one of the Probation Camps, an update will be provided at the next Business Meeting.

4. Chairperson's Report on Various Items for July 20, 2011. (11-3352)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles with the Commission:

- **Needy Children (Los Angeles Times - July 18, 2011)**
- **Deaths Tied to Agency Lapses (Los Angeles Times - July 18, 2011)**
- **Don't Dismiss DCFS Concerns (Daily Breeze - July 19, 2011)**
- **Social Workers' Errors Linked to Childrens' Deaths (Daily Breeze - July 19, 2011)**

5. Treasurer's Report for July 20, 2011. (11-3353)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that after collecting Commissioner Bigby's dues of \$90.00, and receiving a \$300.00 scholarship donation from former Commissioner Hammargren, the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,178.10, .

6. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports. (11-3354)

There was none.

7. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports. (11-3355)

Vice-Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Moore commented on the Department of Children and Family Services Contract Compliance Monitoring Review Report.

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- **Maryvale Group Home - (April 20, 2011 - Vice-Chairperson Bacio)**
 - **Dangerfield Group Homes - (July 15, 2011 - Commissioner Moore)**

8. Commissioners' Reports on Group Homes, and Detention Facilities Inspections from July 14, 2011 to July 19, 2011. (11-3356)

During this reporting period the Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being the following:

Satisfactory Condition

Chairperson Montaño

Norwalk Station – The facility was visited on July 18, 2011

South Bay Bright Future Youth Center - 39 #4, the facility was visited on July 19, 2011.

Vice-Chairperson Bacio

Maryvale Group Home – The facility was visited on July 14, 2011 (Audit Review for Compliance).

Commissioner Moore

Foundation of the Junior Blind of America – 24, #2, the facility was visited on June 12, 2011 (Audit Review for Compliance).

Commissioners Hall and Moore

Dangerfield Group Home – The facility was visited on July 15, 2011 (Audit Review for Compliance).

III. DISCUSSIONS

9. Discussion and Consideration of the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation of Candidates to Receive Scholarship Awards. (11-3357)

The Ad Hoc Committee met and selected from a pool of 12 candidates, three scholarship recipients to receive awards on August 9, 2011.

10. Discussion and Consideration of the Scholarship Program, and the Board of Supervisors Scholarship Awards Presentation. (11-3359)

Following discussion, staff was instructed to write a thank you letter to Supervisor Antonovich for providing a continental breakfast and for allowing the Commission to host its Sybil Brand Commission 2011 Scholarship Awards Program on August 9, 2011 in Rooms 864 and 381-B. They would also like staff to request three scrolls to be presented to the scholarship awardees.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

11. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-3360)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (11-3361)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment for the meeting of July 20, 2011. (11-3362)

The July 20, 2011 meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.